MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

FARM ADVISER

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NOTICE

The purpose of the Farm Adviser is to furnish a convenient and timely medium for supplying news notes regarding the work of the Agricultural College, Experiment Station, and Extension Service, in co-operation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture to the local press and to county demonstration agents with a view to keeping them and the people throughout the State informed of the activities of these agricultural agencies in their behalf. All requests for copies of this sheet should be directed to Reuben Brigham, In Charge of Publications, The Extension Service, College Park, Maryland.

WILL HAVE STRONG REPRESENTATION AT MARYLAND WEEK EXHIBITION NOVEMBER 16-21

College Park, Oct. 29.—This week witnessed the holding of a very successful fair at Easton under the management of the Talbot County Fair Association, for which County Agent E. P. Walls acted as superintendent. An especial effort was made to have a representative display of the agricultural products of the county. The fair was well attended, much interest being shown in the exhibits of every department. Competition was especially keen in farm crops and live stock, in spite of the very unfavorable growing season this year. Much credit is due the Fair Association and particularly to Mr. Walls for his energetic efforts to secure a large and creditable display. Especial care was taken to provide competent judges for every class of exhibits, among them being a considerable of the Extension workers of the Agricultural College.

The exhibits of the Boys' and Girls' clubs of the County attracted much attention, these clubs being in charge of County Agent and Mrs. E. P. Walls. This is the first year in which such work has been carried on, in this section, and the results are most encouraging. In connection with these club exhibits, Miss Katherine A. Pritchett and her assistant, Miss Florence J. Hunt, who have charge of Home Demonstration work in this State, had a Home Economics exhibit, which proved especially attractive to visitors at the Fair. Examples of interior decoration, labor saving devices, laundry equipment, cess pool charts, and inexpensive ways of introducing water into the farm home were some of the attractive features of this exhibit. Demonstrations were given each morning on "Food Principles and Values," by Miss Hunt; "The School Lunch Basket," by Miss Pritchett; and "Interior Decorations," by Miss Comstock of Kent County.

Another attractive section of the fair was the part devoted to booth exhibits by the various local Granges of the County. These booth exhibits gave an excellent idea of the enterprise and agricultural production of the communities which they represented. It would not be surprising if Talbott County stood as well in this class at Maryland Week as it did last year, when Cordova Grange won first place. In any case, Talbott County exhibitors should make an excellent showing at the big State show, if their local exhibition is a fair example of what they can do.

EXPERIMENTAL SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM FOR THE AVERAGE FARM

College Park, Oct. 28.—Plans are being made and the details worked out by the Division of Engineering of the Maryland Agricultural College for an experimental sewerage disposal plant having the capacity to take care of the sewerage of ten persons.

One of the main ideas of the College authorities in designing this system is to have it as simple as possible and of such size as to illustrate how the same may be installed in connection with the average farm house.

This system will be interesting from another point of view, as it is to be connected to the toilets provided with anti-freezing closets, the latter being located in a house which will have no heat.

A careful record will be kept of the cost of the material, the construction, time of completion and labor. These items will supplement the plans, copies of which will be supplied to those desiring them.

Prof. Harry Gwinner, of the Mechanical Engineering Department, is in charge of the work, being assisted by Profs. Crisp and Springer, who are working on the details of the plant.

Information relative to any points in connection with the system may be obtained from the Divi-

sion of Engineering, Maryland Agricultural College, College Park, Md.

LOCAL SCHOOL TEACHERS CO-OPERATE IN HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK

College Park, Oct. 29.—Local school teachers in a number of sections are finding co-operation with the Agricultural College in Home Demonstration work a valuable aid in improving community conditions. This work has been recently started in Cecil County in connection with the school at Liberty Grove. Miss Rawlings, the local teacher, has her boys and girls enrolled in a literary club, and as a part of the work of this club she will have on two Friday afternoons in each month a Home Economics session, in conducting which she will be assisted by Miss Katherine A. Pritchett, Home Demonstration Agent for Maryland. The girls will begin with sewing lessons, making garments for practical use; the boys will be taught to make labor-saving devices, such as a fireless cooker, ironing board, fly trap, rolling tray, etc. The boys will supply the material for making these devices themselves. In the spring this work will be supplemented by organizing a class in camp cookery, the work to be done in the woods near the school house. It is believed that by thus interesting the boys and girls in home industries, that the local school can be made a much more influential factor in developing community progress.

Miss Pritchett is also co-operating with the Appleton Community Club of Cecil County, the Womens' division of which devotes the third Friday evening of each month to Home Demonstration work. This club is proving a most active factor in getting the people of the community to study and discuss matters in which they are interested.

PROPER HANDLING OF DUTCH BULBS FOR INDOOR GROWTH

Frequent inquiries are received by the Landscape Department of the Agricultural College as to the proper method of growing Dutch bulbs. These bulbs are a very attractive addition to the home, in winter, and can be easily grown. The following method of growing them indoors is being recommended by Professor B. W. Anspon:

"After securing the bulbs, prepare the soil for potting. Any good garden soil will do, but the one prepared as follows gives better results: One-third part sand, one-third part well rotted cow manure, and one-third part loam. The size of the pot depends on the size of the bulb and the number to be placed in a single pot. Large hyacinths should be planted singly in a four-inch pot. Where several bulbs are to be planted in a single pot, six or eight inch pots or pans should be used. Pot up so that the top of the bulbs will just show above the surface of the soil. Place the potted bulbs in a cool place, after watering them, so that the roots may develop. Any well-drained place outdoors that is somewhat shady will do. Dig a small trench four to six inches deep and place the pots therein; cover them with three to four inches of fine sand or cinders so as to retain moisture. Leave them undisturbed for at least eight weeks, or until root growth is well started. Now remove the pots to a cool room, gradually bringing them into the light. When one does not wish to place the bulbs outdoors, they can be kept in a cool, dark cellar until the roots develop. To secure a succession of blooms, bring in a few of the pots at intervals of a few weeks. Prepared cocoanut fibre is now used extensively in place of soil for growing bulbs indoors."

RYE PROVIDES EXCELLENT SPRING FEED FOR THE DAIRY COWS

College Park, Nov. 1.—In response to numerous inquiries regarding the sowing of a late cover crop for spring pasturage, Prof. Nicholas Schmitz of the Maryland Experiment Station makes the following statement:

"Rye is especially well adapted to soiling purposes for the dairy; for besides being very palatable when cut at the proper stage of maturity, it is as well balanced in its food constituents as a green feed and is the first crop available for green feeding in the spring. Used in this way not only maintains the milk flow, but will most always increase it.

"In order that the best results may be obtained from rye as a green forage, cutting should begin a few days before it starts to head and continue until it is in full head or bloom. During this stage of growth it is the most palatable to dairy cows and the yield is sufficient to justify its use, while if its use is attempted much after this period it is not sufficiently palatable to be eaten readily.

"The total yield of protein on the acre of rye, of average yield (7 tons), is equal to that contained in one ton of brand; the carbo hydrates are equal to nearly two tons of bran.

"As is the case with all new green feeds cows should not at the beginning be fed all they usually require. Thirty pounds a day will be enough to start on. This should be increased until about the third day a 1,000 pound cow is getting 60 pounds equal to 10 pounds of dry matter, or nearly half the amount required by a cow in full flow of milk."